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Iowa Civil War Memorials

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Iowa Civil War Memorials

In 1906, when Governor Cummins and other distinguished Iowans dedicated the Iowa state monuments on the battlefields of Shiloh, Chattanooga, and Vicksburg, they also dedicated a memorial at Andersonville, the site of the infamous prison stockade in Georgia where some 13,000 Union soldiers died in 1864-1865. On the Iowa monument the names of the 214 Iowans who died and are buried at Andersonville are carved. Other national military cemeteries throughout the South contain many graves of the Iowans who died in battle.

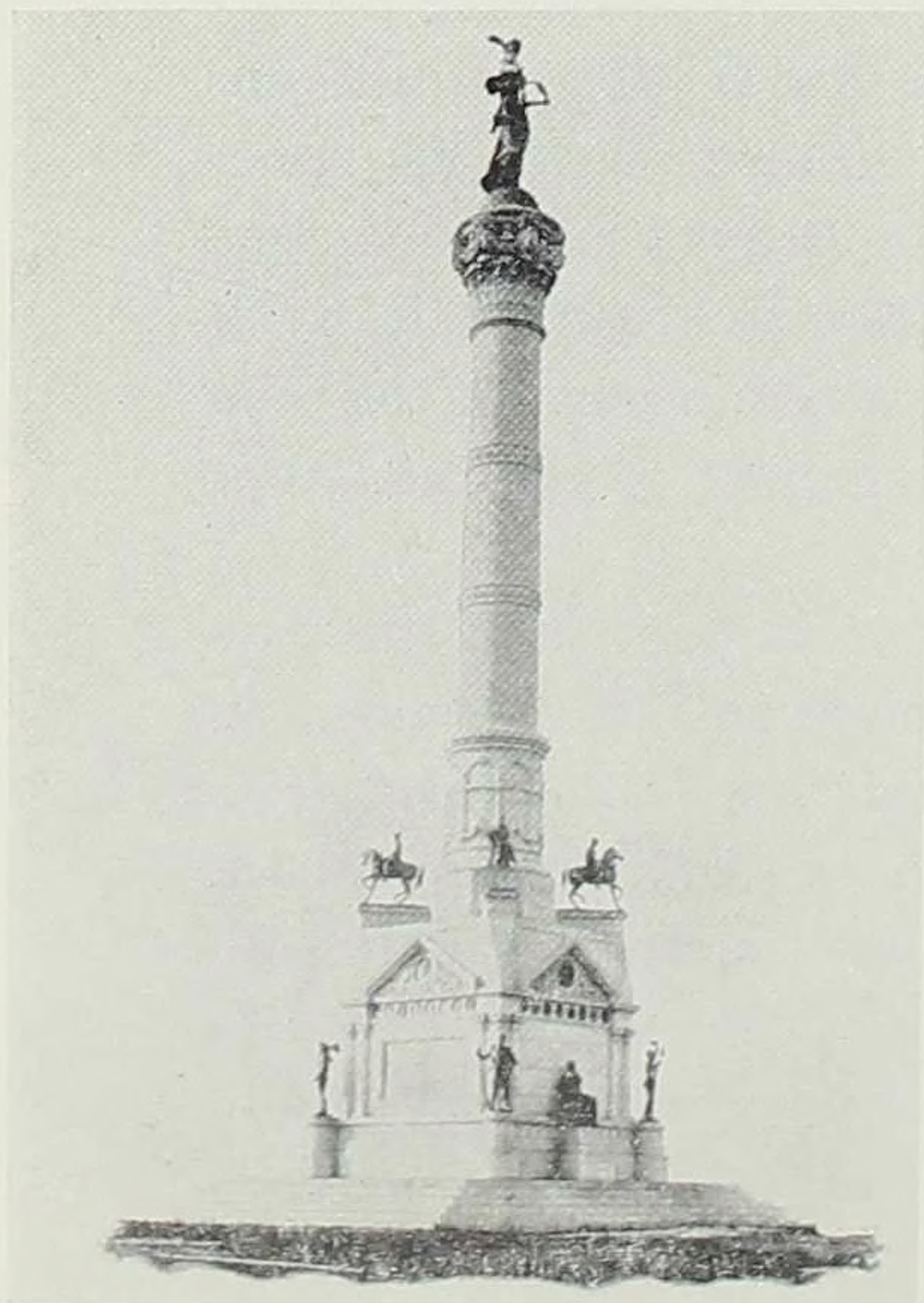
In Iowa, almost every town of any size has its Civil War memorial, even if it is only an old cannon mounted in the town square. And the cemeteries of the state contain graves of those who survived to come home and live out their lives. Each Memorial Day these reminders of the war are marked with flags in respect to the men who fought for the Union.

Iowa's largest monument is probably the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in Des Moines. At the base of the granite shaft are four figures, representing the various branches of the service: the infantry by Shelby Norman, the first Iowan to die

in the war, at the battle of Wilson's Creek; the navy by Ensign William H. C. Michael; the artillery by Captain Henry H. Griffiths of the First Iowa Artillery; and the cavalry by Lieutenant James Horton of the 8th Iowa Cavalry, who was killed in the Atlanta campaign. Four equestrian figures represent Generals Dodge, Corse, Curtis, and Crocker. Around the monument are bronze plaques, picturing men of all ranks of the service, from private to general. At the top of the granite shaft is a figure of Victory.

Inscriptions on the monument include: "Iowa's tribute to the courage, patriotism and distinguished service of all her soldiers and sailors who fought in the war of the rebellion, 1861-1865."

Iowa Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument
at Des Moines



Iowa Monument at Andersonville

